

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been canceled in an earlier amendment, and Claims 18-35 are pending in this application.

In the October 9, 2003 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (NNCA), the Legal Instrument Examiner (LIE) asserts that the September 17, 2003 Amendment, which is responsive to a March 17, 2003 Office Action and which was filed with an accompanying Request For Continued Examination (RCE), does not comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. The LIE asserts that "[a] complete listing of all of the claims is not present." To expedite allowance, the Applicants submit a complete listing of all of the claims, specifically noting that Claims 1-17 have been canceled.

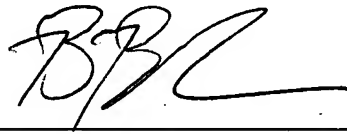
Further, in the September 17, 2003 Amendment, the identifiers "Previously Amended" and "Previously Added" were used to identify Claims 18, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 29 and 30. Although these identifiers were not objected to, in light of the revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, effective July 30, 2003, the identifiers used to identify Claims 18, 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 29 and 30 have been changed to "Previously Presented." The Applicants submit that this Response to the October 9, 2003 NNCA complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

In light of the September 17, 2003 Amendment, the accompanying RCE, and this Response to the NNCA, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 18-35 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel for the purpose of conducting a telephonic interview.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BBL', written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 24, 2003

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